

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE AWARD FOR ASSISTIVE LIVING TECHNOLOGY

The Council has won a national award for its “inspirational” and “person-centred” solution to helping residents maintain their independence through technology. The Council was awarded a Local Government Chronicle Award in the ‘Service Delivery Model’ category for its Assistive Living Technology work. The LGC Awards are the largest and most well-respected accolades in local government, showcasing creativity, intelligence and determination. This year there was a record 663 entries from 222 organisations, from which there was 19 winners.

Assistive Living Technology (ALT) is the use of devices and appliances that help people stay independent. The Council introduced ALT to manage the growing and changing care needs of the population. The programme area saw the creation of a Safe and Well partnership with technology provider Tunstall and together they have facilitated the development and implementation of ALT, following a Learning Disability pilot with The Community Gateway CIC. The work has led to improved outcomes for residents as well as leading to more than £2.2m in savings.

The judges called the service “impressive” and “inspirational”. They said: “It is person and solution-focused by a broad range of partnerships, moving well beyond the traditional telecare. We were impressed by the bespoke products and service infrastructure and the substantial benefits realised. We were further inspired by the plans for development, future potential and accruing benefits for a growing high demand customer base. The forward service delivery model planning is fully integrated and sustainable.”

The Council’s work was also recognised in its nomination in the ‘Efficiency through technology’ category.

LAING AND BUISSON AWARD FOR ‘BEST COMMISSIONER’

Alison Westwood, Complex Case Manager in the Strategic Commissioning team, has won the ‘Best Commissioner’ award in the Laing and Buisson Independent Specialist Care Awards 2015. Alison was nominated for her work on the Moorgate Mill housing project, by Lifeways, the organisation that provides the care at Moorgate Mill. Now in its fifth year, the Independent Specialist Care Awards provides a platform from which the specialist care sector can showcase its major achievements.

AGE UK SERVICES AT HOPWOOD COURT

As part of Adult Social Care’s commitment to innovative approaches to better outcomes for older people a ground-breaking partnership initiative has been created with Age UK Blackburn with Darwen to develop daytime and community services at Hopwood Court in Blackburn.

Through an integrated approach to service improvement, Age UK, a key local VCF partner has entered into a joint service agreement with Adult Social Care services to realise better opportunities for older people with dementia and their family carers. Following a significant capital investment programme funded from the Adult Social Care capital programme the facilities at Hopwood Court and ongoing partnership arrangement will be a key element in our drive to improve outcomes for older people.

SHOREY BANK, DARWEN

The planned complex to be built in Darwen, the Shorey Bank Extra Care complex, received planning permission at the March Planning Committee. Work will soon commence on developing the site and will begin with a clod-cutting ceremony.

The complex will eventually provide one- and two-bedroomed apartments and two-bedroomed bungalows for rent.

It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed by Spring 2017.

TRAINING SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE FUTURE

Adults' and Children's services are committed to training the next generation of Social Workers and provide a large number of 100-day placements in September and February each year for students from local universities on Social Work degree courses.

Social Work students are allocated their own caseload and have formal observations, supervision and mentoring during their placements. They receive support from a qualified and experienced Social Worker, called a Practice Educator, who assesses their work in practice. The Practice Educator undertakes post qualifying training in order to undertake this role.

Universities have reported that the Council provides very high quality placements, students also report back positively via their evaluations about the support they have received. The activity is also a reliable and cost effective way of recruiting to vacant posts as Social Workers have been 'tried and tested'. During 2014 – 2015, 4 out of 6 students in Adult Services were recruited to Social Work posts following their placements. Student placements also bring in income from the Department of Health as each student placement is paid at £2000 per student which is invested back into training new Practice Educators or other post qualifying development.

PUBLIC HEALTH

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL PROCUREMENT

Services for drugs and alcohol are the single biggest area of spend from the public health budget. Following an open tendering process, the contract has been awarded to national third sector organization CRI, in a move that will improve outcomes for people, at lower cost. CRI have been providing substance misuse treatment and recovery services for young people and adults for 20 years, developing their support offer to meet both 'criminal justice' and 'health and social' needs. The new delivery model from 1st April 2015 will promote:

- Support for people across the life course
- A whole family approach
- Using volunteers in recovery as part of their core offer
- Collaborative working to ensure there is no 'wrong door'
- Neighbourhood access as part of a wider integrated offer
- Assertive outreach, and support to access suitable housing
- Community partnerships to enhance education and awareness
- Clinical expertise and robust governance

As 'prime provider', CRI will sub-contract with THOMAS, CVS Fast4wd Project, GPs and pharmacists and an organisation called 'the Work Company', which will enhance opportunities

for education, training and employment in partnership with the wider local information, advice and guidance services. There is more information available at the following link: <http://www.cri.org.uk/content/blackburn-darwen-integrated-drug-and-alcohol-treatment-services>

DRY JANUARY

Alcohol remains a significant local health concern, reflected in the priorities of the borough's multi-agency Alcohol Strategy, of which Dry January is a small but important strand. This year the campaign reached new heights by taking the message out into the community, and over 700 residents chose the health and social benefits of a period without alcohol, supported by positive stories in local and national press, as well as Alcohol Concern's social media.

SHOCKING FACTS

In the UK a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest outside of hospital is less than 10%, compared with over 20% in many other developed countries. As a 'Heart Town', Blackburn with Darwen Council has been working with the British Heart Foundation and the NHS to provide training and awareness raising to improve survival. In February, this work culminated in the installation of Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPAD) outside the Town Halls of Blackburn and Darwen, which are accessible 24/7 all year round. These new defibrillators complement those newly installed across Blackburn with Darwen Council buildings for staff use and in other longstanding locations across the borough including children's centres, leisure centres, schools, the Mall and Blackburn Market.

Training and awareness raising will continue, in order to maximise their impact, but the defibrillators can be used safely and effectively without previous training.

TB EXPLORERS

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious but treatable infectious disease and an important local health issue. While the outcomes of treatment are amongst the best in the region, more needs to be done to promote understanding of the condition, so that people are encouraged to seek help early.

Between November and March, local community organisation One Voice worked with North West social enterprise Our Life to recruit, train and mentor a team of six residents of South Asian heritage to lead engagement within their own communities. Over 300 conversations explored the diversity of attitudes, awareness, myths and misunderstandings about TB and asked residents to consider how improvements could be made. The findings will be used to increase the awareness and involvement of the South Asian heritage communities in tackling TB, inform future development of effective services, and in March were presented at the North West 'TB Summit' as a good practice example.

FEELING GOOD, FUNCTIONING WELL

Mental wellbeing is profoundly important to quality of life and the capacity to cope with life's ups and downs. It is protective against both mental and physical illness, unhealthy lifestyles and social inequalities in health.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has identified mental wellbeing as a key priority and cross-cutting theme of the revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy currently under development. In February, the Board hosted a consultation event with key stakeholders and partners, including the Samaritans, Mind and Public Health England, to help finalise the draft action plan that will contribute to improving the mental wellbeing of people of all ages living in Blackburn with Darwen.